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Urban District Council of Basildon

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



PATRICK X. O'DWYER, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,

including the Report of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A. L. LEDDEN, M.A.P.H.I.

For the year 1959



Urban District Council of Basildon

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For the year 1959

## OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### Medical Officer of Health:

PATRICK X. O'DWYER, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

### Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

(Part-time)

JAMES GORMAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

### Public Health Inspectorate:

*Chief Public Health Inspector* A. L. LEDDEN, M.A.P.H.I.

*Second Public Health Inspector* M. A. LARGE, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

*District Public Health Inspectors* M. J. DESMOND, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.  
W. S. BIGGINS, M.A.P.H.I.

K. H. POPHAM, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.  
(Resigned 12th August, 1959)

B. S. HARRAWAY, M.A.P.H.I.,  
(Commenced 10th September, 1959)

### Clerical Staff:

*Chief Clerk* ... Miss V. M. HAMBLETON

*Clerks* ... Mrs. E. M. BOOTH  
Mrs. J. PENNY

### Rodent Operative:

L. A. MAY

### Public Analyst:

J. HUBERT HAMENCE, M.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
 Telephone: COUNCIL OFFICES,  
 Billericay 1800/3 HIGH STREET,  
 BILLERICAY.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
 Urban District Council of Basildon.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1959.

The statistics for the year show an increase in population of 6,000, and there were 200 more births than in the previous year. The figures generally throughout the report show a steady increase in the work of the department.

Infectious Disease Notifications revealed a considerable increase in Measles cases, but otherwise, apart from a slight increase in Puerperal Pyrexia cases, the overall pattern remained unchanged.

1959 saw the coming into operation of the first Smoke Control Order, I am happy to say, smoothly and without any major problem.

The unusually hot summer brought its difficulties; food complaints were numerous, mostly because of the high incidence of mould growth, and the water shortage resulted in a considerable increase in requests for water deliveries.

I take this opportunity of thanking Members of the Council and my colleagues for their assistance during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

PATRICK X. O'DWYER.

## SECTION A

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	27,020
Registrar General's Estimate of the Home population	...	...	...	...	...	...	78,210
Number of inhabited houses at 31st December, 1959 according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,700
Rateable value at 31st December, 1959	...	...	...	...	...	...	£815,913
Sum represented by a penny rate at 31st December, 1959 (estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£3,100

## VITAL STATISTICS

<i>Live Births</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Legitimate	...	...	...	1,013	896	1,909	1,952
Illegitimate	...	...	...	22	21	43	
Total Birth Rate, Legitimate and Illegitimate, per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...	...	...	Crude Rate	24.95	
	...	...	...	...	Adjusted Rate	*20.95	

*Still Births*

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births (Male 23, Female 11)	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.12
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

<i>Deaths</i>				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total number of deaths	...	...	...	368	298	666

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...	...	...	Crude Rate	8.51
	...	...	...	...	Adjusted Rate	*10.46

Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Infant Mortality					

	Nos. of Infant deaths.	Rates per 1,000 live births.	Legit- imate Infants	Rates per 1,000 leg- itimate live births.	Illeg- itimate Infants.	Rates per 1,000 illegitimate live births.
Under 2 weeks of age	M. 22		M. 20		M. 2	
	F. 11		F. 11		F. -	
	T. 33	16.90	T. 31	16.23	T. 2	46.51
Under 4 weeks of age	M. 27		M. 25		M. 2	
	F. 13		F. 13		F. -	
	T. 40	20.49	T. 38	19.90	T. 2	46.51
Under 1 year of age	M. 31		M. 29		M. 2	
	F. 17		F. 17		F. -	
	T. 48	24.59	T. 46	24.09	T. 2	46.51

<i>Deaths from certain Diseases</i>			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Malignant neoplasm	...	...	73	62	135
Measles	...	...	1	—	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	2	1	3

*Deaths from Violent Causes*

There were twenty-seven deaths of this nature of which seven were the result of motor vehicle accidents and eleven were classified as suicides.

## \*COMPARABILITY FACTORS:

Births	...	0.84
Deaths	...	1.23



## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The district is in the area of North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board for hospital and specialist consultant services, within the area of the Essex Executive Committee for general practitioner services, and the Essex County Council is the Local Health Authority and School Health Authority for personal health services for expectant and nursing mothers, infants and schoolchildren, and those of all ages suffering from mental ill health. The County Council also provides an ambulance service for all needs.

The main hospital in the district is St. Andrew's, Stock Road, Billericay, a large general hospital dealing with all types of medical and surgical conditions. General hospitals at Southend and other adjacent areas also admit patients from Basildon. The number of general practitioners with addresses in the district is still increasing and other doctors outside our boundaries have patients in Basildon.

The County Council has the following six Health Centres in the district, the first four being purpose built.

Craylands Health Centre, Timberlog Lane, Basildon.

Tel. No. Vange 2166

Pitsea Health Centre, The Broadway, High Road, Pitsea.

Tel. No. Vange 2275

Laindon Health Centre, Florence Road, Laindon.

Tel. No. Laindon 3161

Billericay Health Centre, Laindon Road, Billericay.

Tel. No. Billericay 423

Wickford Health Centre, Nevendon Road, Wickford.

Tel. No. Wickford 3364

Basildon Health Centre, 119 Honeypot Lane, Basildon.

Tel. No. Basildon 20088

At each of these Centres there are clinic sessions for expectant mothers, infant welfare schoolchildren, etc., and details of these may be had on application to the Centre, each of which has one or more Health Visitors who call upon mothers in their own homes in addition to giving advice at the Centres.

A Tuberculosis Care Association exists in the area for the purpose of helping sufferers from this disease. The Hon. Secretary is Miss J. A. Blanks, "Greyfriars," Highlands Avenue, Vange.

## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### Water Supplies

All mains water is supplied to properties in the Urban District either by the Southend Waterworks Company or, as regards the Langdon Hills area, the South Essex Waterworks Company, and from bacteriological and chemical examinations made by their own chemists and occasional check samples taken by our Inspectors, the water has been shown to be good chemically and excellent bacteriologically. The waters are not liable to plumbo solvent action and there has been no contamination of water supplied to consumers.

During the year the Council agreed to transfer the Langdon Hills Water Undertaking to the Southend Waterworks Company and, with the approval of the Minister of Housing and Local Government, the Company took over the administration of this supply on 1st October, 1959.

Among the reasons impelling the Council to agree to the transfer were:

1. The transfer, which conformed to the Government's policy of regrouping, would ensure the maintenance of an adequate water supply to the Langdon Hills area by reason of new works that the Waterworks Company would undertake shortly.
2. The Southend Waterworks Company as a specialist Undertaking would be able to provide from its greater resources more competent administrative and technical services than the Council could have provided.
3. The Council were satisfied that there would now be no disadvantage to the consumer as regards cost of supply.

A total of 7 miles 1,464 yards of new mains were laid during the year made up as follows:—

Diameter in inches			Miles	Yards
3	...	...	1	721
4	...	...	2	1511
6	...	...	2	1033
9	...	...	—	1719

The total number of new connections to the water mains during the year was 1605. The bulk of these were new properties but in dealing with the connection of old properties to new mains the Inspectors took 13 samples from the occupiers existing means of supply of which five showed the water to be unsatisfactory for drinking.



## **Water Deliveries to Rainwater Storage Tanks**

Four hundred and ninety applications were received for a delivery of clean water in times of low rainfall or following cleansing of storage tanks and filtering media, in respect of which 272,000 gallons were delivered.

## **Standpipes**

Two hundred and thirty-two householders still have to rely on renting a key from the Health Department for use at one of the 55 Council owned standpipes for a supply of wholesome drinking water.

## **Drainage & Sewerage**

The Wickford Outfall Relief Sewer has been constructed during the year and work was commenced on Nevendon Road Area (Wickford) Sewerage Scheme in December.

One temporary Pumping Station at Bush Hall and a small Treatment Plant at Frithwood Lane have been constructed by agreement with private developers to avoid the use of cesspools and to facilitate the ultimate connection of these new properties to the public sewer when available.

A small permanent Pumping Station has also been constructed under similar arrangements at Perry Green, to serve the new Plantation Estate and several existing properties on the London Road, Billericay.

A new surface water sewer was constructed across the Frithwood Estate, Billericay, and various watercourses throughout the district have been regraded and cleaned in order to prevent flooding.

Work continued on the reconstruction and modernisation of the Billericay Sewage Treatment Works, Mountnessing Road, and a substantial proportion of the new plant was brought into use. It is anticipated that the contract will be completed in June, 1960.

The contract for the extension of the Outwood Common Sewage Treatment Works commenced in June, 1959, and is due for completion in August, 1960.

Number of new premises connected during the year	...	1721
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Number of old premises connected during the year	...	36
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## **Pollution of Ditches and Watercourses**

Complaints regarding the offensive condition of a watercourse in the Stock Road area of Billericay resulted in a comprehensive survey of the cesspools in this vicinity. The survey commenced in September and a total of 103 premises were visited during the investigation. It was found that at 26 properties the contents of cesspools were gaining access to the watercourse either directly by piped overflow or indirectly by serious leakage and the owners of these properties were requested to abate the nuisance. In the main this informal action was effective and it was necessary to serve statutory notices under the Public Health Act in only two cases.

Some delay was experienced however in the execution of repairs to cesspools due largely to difficulty in synchronising the cesspool emptying service with the arrival of the builders to carry out the work.

In all a total of 237 visits were made in the course of this investigation and a very considerable improvement in the condition of the ditch was effected.

The forthcoming sewer extensions in this area should result in the elimination of this nuisance.

### **Rodent Control**

A total of 464 complaints were received of rats or mice in private dwellinghouses during the year which were dealt with free of charge to the occupiers. Treatments of 81 business premises were also carried out on a rechargeable basis.

The results of the annual test baiting of the sewerage system reflect the benefit of regular maintenance baiting since significant infestation is now confined almost completely to one corner of the District and even here very considerable progress has been made.

A total of 2,783 visits were made by the Rodent Operative in the course of his duties.

### **Disinfestation**

Nineteen applications for treatment of premises infested with bed bugs or fleas were dealt with by the Rodent Operative under the Council's scheme at a nominal charge of 5/-.

## **PUBLIC CLEANSING**

I am indebted to the Council's Engineer and Surveyor for the following information:—

### **Refuse Collection and Disposal**

Conditions at the Pitsea Marsh Tip have been generally satisfactory. By the end of December 1959 a regular weekly house-to-house refuse collection was being made from 24,014 properties and 202 trade premises. Owing to the impracticability of the Council's collecting vehicles travelling with safety over unmade private streets, the maintenance of 109 communal bin sites serving such streets continues. A twice weekly collection has been made from these sites.

### **Street Cleansing**

Mechanical cleansing of highways continues reinforced by manual sweeping as necessary. A total of 6,373 miles of road was swept, including certain amenity sweeping carried out in main classified thoroughfares in each township.

### **Cesspool Cleansing**

A total of 1,205 cesspools were the subject of cesspool cleansing agreements at the end of December, 1959, and during the year 1,982 cesspools were cleansed involving the collection and disposal of approximately  $3\frac{1}{4}$  million gallons of sewage.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION  
OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

**PART I OF THE ACT**

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health, (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	182	88	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	2	—	—	—
TOTAL	195	89	—	—

The total of 195 factories includes 59 constructed on the Industrial Estate, Basildon, developed by the Basildon Development Corporation, and at the end of 1959, five new factories were under construction on this estate. Preliminaries were commenced on the new Western Industrial Estate by the Basildon Development Corporation.

Development on the Industrial Estate at Billericay was well under way at the end of the year with two factories completed and a further five under construction. Plans have been passed for the construction of a further 20 factories on this estate.

The figure of 195 factories includes five slaughterhouses.

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	1	—	—	—



**Factories Act, 1937: Sec. 34**

**Means of Escape from fire:** Certificates showing means of escape in case of fire are issued by the Health Department. Draft plans for new factories are examined and consultations take place between the Public Health Inspectors, representatives of the Fire Prevention Department and the Essex Fire Brigade, Architects, Industrialists and H.M. Inspector of Factories to ensure that the plans show adequate means of escape in case of fire, and that these are in fact incorporated during the construction of the factories. The officers of the Fire Brigade and H.M. Inspector of Factories have again given invaluable assistance in this connection and Architects and Industrialists have in general been very co-operative in putting our suggestions into effect. Factories expected to expand have been kept constantly under review to ensure full compliance with the requirements of this section.

During the year 1959 six certificates were issued.

**SMOKE CONTROL****(a) Basildon Smoke Control Area No. 1**

By virtue of the coming into operation on September 1st of the first smoke control order, over 2,000 householders contained within a small area of Basildon became obliged to use one of the approved fuels on their open firegrates.

For the majority this presented no real problem since, with the exception of a handful of older properties, all were already equipped with improved grates, and many householders had been burning one of the smokeless fuels for some time.

There had been no objections to the scheme and no applications for grants towards works of adaption. A few householders, despite the considerable publicity given to the project, had stocks of coal on September 1st and complaints were received from some over difficulty in lighting certain types of coke, largely due to inexperience, but, subject to one or two initial difficulties of a minor character, Basildon's first smoke control area moved smoothly and unobtrusively into full operation.

**(b) Building Byelaw 116—Smoke Prevention**

A new building byelaw made under Section 24 of the Clean Air Act came into force in this District on 1st February, 1959, requiring all new buildings to be provided with heating and cooking appliances which are suitably designed for burning one of the approved solid smokeless fuels, gas, electricity or oil. Observance of this byelaw will be enforced by the Council's Building Inspectors.

## PART VIII OF THE ACT

## OUTWORK

Nature of Work	Section 110				Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
Wearing apparel—Making	69	—	—	—	—	—	
Artificial flowers ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	
Brush Making ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	
Basket Making ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	
Christmas crackers ..	67	—	—	—	—	—	
Lampshades ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL ..	152	—	—	—	—	—	



## INSPECTION OF THE AREA

**Visits carried out by Public Health Inspectors:**

## Dwellinghouses with respect to:

Defects under Public Health and Housing Acts ... ..	1,337
Water supply ... ..	316
Rehousing (living conditions of applicants) ... ..	1,192
Housing Management ... ..	41
Dustbins ... ..	26
Sewer Connections ... ..	230
Infectious Disease ... ..	108
Social Welfare ... ..	73
Housing Repairs and Rents Act ... ..	16
Standard Improvement Grant ... ..	124

## Premises with respect to:

Vermin ... ..	28
Rats and Mice ... ..	30
Nuisances under Public Health Act ... ..	1,399
Manufacture and storage of ice cream ... ..	29
Distribution and sale of milk ... ..	59
Massage and Special Treatment ... ..	8
Hairdressing ... ..	3
Factories and Workshops ... ..	89
Food Shops and Stalls ... ..	1,019
Shops under the Shops Act ... ..	25
Pet Shops ... ..	11
Hawkers ... ..	172
Moveable dwellings ... ..	7
Houseboats ... ..	20
Watercourses ... ..	97
Clean Air Act ... ..	384
Slaughterhouses ... ..	868
Bacteriological sampling ... ..	189
Food Sampling ... ..	391
Diseases of Animals ... ..	4
Farms (Safety and Welfare) ... ..	3
Health Education ... ..	13
Miscellaneous ... ..	118

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8,429

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**SECTION D****HOUSING****Development**

Compared with the previous year slightly fewer new houses were erected largely due to fewer completions by the Development Corporation. Of a total of 1,789 new properties 1,018 were erected by the Basildon Development Corporation, 93 by the Council and 678 by private development, the latter reflecting an increase of nearly 10% over the 1958 figure.

**Slum Clearance Programme**

To further the Council's slum clearance programme action was taken regarding 24 properties resulting in 20 demolition orders and two closing orders being made, undertakings being accepted in respect of the remainder.

Thirty properties were added to the programme making a grand total of 297 of which 50 remain to be dealt with.

At the end of the year the position was as follows:—

Total number of properties included in the Programme ...	297	
Less properties demolished and withdrawn ...	168	
		<hr/>
		129
Number of properties on which Demolition Orders have been made ...	42	
Number of properties on which Closing Orders have been made ...	9	
Number of properties in respect of which Undertakings have been accepted ...	17	
Number of properties purchased by B.D.C. ...	11	
Number of various stages of negotiation ...	50	129
		<hr/>

**Repairs**

Seventy-six complaints of housing defects were received all of which were satisfactorily dealt with by action under the Public Health Act. In only 14 instances were statutory notices served and in none of these cases was legal action necessary.

**Rehousing**

During the year the Housing Section received 320 new applications for Council houses making a grand total of 695 registered cases of which 400 were considered priority cases. 153 applicants were rehoused by the Council.

**Certificates of Disrepair**

No. of applications received in 1959 ...	3
No. of certificates issued ...	2
No. of certificates revoked upon completion of repairs	1

**Essex County Council Act, 1952****Houseboats**

As a result of notices served under Section 111 of the Essex County Council Act, 1952, on owners and occupiers of the original 11 boats a further five were removed. At the end of the year only one remained.

## SECTION E

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

## Food and Drugs Administration

In the course of the year 221 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst who commented adversely on 16 samples.

The following table shows the range of articles sampled:

<i>Articles sampled</i>	<i>No. examined</i>	<i>No. found to be genuine</i>	<i>No. found to be adulterated or under standard</i>
Apricots, Dried ... ..	1	1	
Almonds, Ground ... ..	3	3	
Angelica ... ..	1	1	
Aspirin ... ..	1	1	
Beef, Potted ... ..	1	1	
Black Currant Juice Syrup ...	1	1	
Bread ... ..	2	2	
Beer ... ..	6	6	
Cream of Tartar ... ..	1	1	
Cinnamon, Ground ... ..	1	1	
Cochineal Colouring ... ..	1	1	
Cochineal ... ..	1	1	
Custard Powder ... ..	1	1	
Children's Worm Syrup ...	1		1
Caraway, Ground ... ..	2	2	
Cloves, Ground ... ..	1	1	
Cooking Oil ... ..	1	1	
Cream ... ..	1	1	
Creamola Foam Crystals ...	1	1	
Coconut ... ..	1	1	
Cooking Fat ... ..	1	1	
Cornish Pasty ... ..	1	1	
Clove Cordial ... ..	1	1	
Crab ... ..	1		1
Crab Paste ... ..	1		1
Crab, Dressed ... ..	1	1	
Cherry British Wine ... ..	1	1	
Diarrhoea Mixture ... ..	1	1	
Faggots ... ..	1	1	
Flour ... ..	1	1	
Fruit, dried ... ..	2	2	
Fruit Salad, Evaporated ...	2	2	
Fruit Chutney ... ..	1	1	
Fruit Sauce ... ..	1	1	
Gelatine ... ..	1	1	
Green Ginger Wine ... ..	2	2	
Glace Cherries ... ..	2	2	
Garlic Vinegar ... ..	1	1	
Gin ... ..	2	2	
Gees Linctus ... ..	1	1	

<i>Articles sampled</i>	<i>No. examined</i>	<i>No. found to be genuine</i>	<i>No. found to be adulterated or under standard</i>
Halibut Liver Oil Capsules ...	1	1	
Ham, Devilled ... ..	1	1	
Hamburgers ... ..	1		1
Jam ... ..	1	1	
Jelly ... ..	1	1	
Lemon Curd ... ..	2	2	
Linseed & Liquorice Lozenges	1	1	
Lemonade Crystals ... ..	1	1	
Linctus ... ..	1	1	
Lystone Salts ... ..	1		1
Milk ... ..	84	84	
Meringue Powder ... ..	1	1	
Mikky ... ..	1	1	
Marmalade ... ..	1	1	
Marzipan ... ..	2	1	1
Mincemeat ... ..	1	1	
Nutmeg Flavoured Compound	1	1	
Orange Drink ... ..	4	4	
Orange Squash ... ..	1	1	
Parsley & Thyme Forcemeat ...	1	1	
Pepper ... ..	1	1	
Pork Pie ... ..	1	1	
Peas, Dried ... ..	1	1	
Pease Pudding ... ..	1	1	
Port, Non-alcoholic (flavoured)	1		1
Parrish's Food ... ..	1	1	
Ruby Wine ... ..	6	5	1
Raspberry Vinegar ... ..	1	1	
Rose Hip Syrup ... ..	1	1	
Steak & Onion Casserole ...	1	1	
Steak Pie ... ..	1	1	
Stewed Steak ... ..	1	1	
Steakette ... ..	1		1
Salmon, Potted ... ..	1	1	
Sausages, Pork ... ..	7	3	4
Sausages, Beef ... ..	4	2	2
Sausage Roll ... ..	1	1	
Soups ... ..	4	4	
Syrup of Cocillana ... ..	1	1	
Sherry ... ..	4	4	
Sauce ... ..	1	1	
Scotch Ginger-Co. (Non- alcoholic Cordial)	1	1	
Skol Wine, Aperitif ... ..	1	1	
Tonic Phosphate ... ..	1	1	
Table Cream, Banana flavour	1	1	
Tarragona Vinegar ... ..	1	1	
Tea ... ..	1	1	
Tomato Sauce ... ..	1	1	
Tomato Puree ... ..	1	1	
Turmeric ... ..	2	2	



<i>Articles sampled</i>	<i>No. examined</i>	<i>No. found to be genuine</i>	<i>No. found to be adulterated or under standard</i>
Vinegar, Malt ... ..	1	1	
Vitamin Tablets ... ..	1	1	
White Wine ... ..	2	1	1
Whisky ... ..	4	4	
	<hr/> 221 <hr/>	<hr/> 205 <hr/>	<hr/> 16 <hr/>

## NON-GENUINE SAMPLES.

Details concerning non-genuine samples, and action taken, are set out below.

### Children's Worm Syrup

No label was affixed to the bottle containing this preparation but from enquiries made the Public Analyst was able to confirm that it had been correctly dispensed. Thus, although a satisfactory worm syrup, the article was not labelled in accordance with the Pharmacy Medicines Act 1941. The Manufacturers stated that the syrup was originally intended for supply upon prescription by a medical practitioner and withdrew the item from general sale.

### Hamburgers

Upon analysis this sample revealed a meat content of 55%. In the Public Analyst's opinion the meat content of hamburgers should be at least 70% and the manufacturers agreed to alter the consistency of their product upon hearing the Public Analyst's views. A further investigation into the meat content of hamburgers is to be made.

### Lystone Salts

This particular informal sample showed a deficiency of 30% of Anhydrous Sodium Phosphate from the amount stated on the label. Arrangements were made for a further check sample to be taken which proved on analysis to be satisfactory.

### Marzipan

The percentage of ground almonds in this commodity was 15%. In the absence of any official standard the Public Analyst was of the opinion that a proper proportion of ground almonds was 25% and the manufacturers were informed of the analyst's findings.

### Port, Non Alcoholic (flavoured)

This beverage on analysis was found to consist essentially of a coloured and flavoured solution of sugar. The bottle in which this drink was sold described it as being Non Alcoholic Port, the word "flavoured" being hidden with a price ticket. The Public Analyst reported on the false and misleading label and in view of the impossibility of obtaining a further formal sample within the District the full facts of this case were submitted for consideration by the Authority in whose area the drink was bottled.



### **Ruby Wine**

A sample of Rich Ruby Wine was sold with a declaration that it contained 29% of proof spirit whereas analysis showed that the proof spirit amounted to only 23.8%. The Council prosecuted the vendor who pleaded guilty and was fined £20 by the Billericay Magistrates.

### **Steakette**

This article was advertised as "Frying Steak". On analysis it was found to consist of minced meat and included 2.9% of starch and was thus misdescribed. Upon representation to the vendors this description was suitably amended.

### **Sausages**

All samples were satisfactory in the analysis but in six cases preservative was found to have been used in the sausages but no notice to this effect was displayed by the vendors. This matter was rectified upon representation to the persons concerned.

### **White Wine**

This wine was stated on the label to contain 31.5% proof spirit whereas the analysis showed only 28.6%. Upon investigation it was found that the bottling firm had made an oversight in the labelling of this particular bottle which had already been rectified on other bottles of the same batch. The Council decided to take no legal proceedings in this instance.

### **Crab**

This sample was submitted to the analyst following a complaint that another tin from the same consignment was found on opening to have a smell of ammonia. Although the Public Analyst was unable to support the original complaint as regards an ammoniacal smell he pointed out that the crab was of poor quality and had not been completely sterilised. The analyst's views on sterilisation were conveyed to the canners and further samples taken.

## **FOOD COMPLAINTS**

An unusually high number of food complaints were referred to the Health Department during the year under review. The high incidence of mould growth in various commodities may have been the result of the delightfully hot weather enjoyed during that summer, a factor, which, upon investigation, food traders were not slow to introduce by way of extenuation. It must be said, however, that a good number of the complaints relating to mould growth could and should have been avoided by meticulous attention to the proper rotation of stock of perishable articles by retailers. The adoption of a simple form of coding to ensure a proper stock rotation cannot be recommended too highly. Possibly this assumes even greater importance in the case of the increasingly popular self service shop.

**Food Complaints referred to the Public Analyst**

<i>Article</i>	<i>Analyst's report</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
Broken biscuits allegedly contaminated with rodent excreta	Black 'foreign' bodies consisted of burnt dough	None required
Soft Drink tasting of disinfectant.	Contaminated with traces of carbolic disinfectant and unfit for human consumption	Legal proceedings instituted at Billericay Magistrates Court. Manufacturers fined £5
Bread containing blackish stains	Caused by fragments of charred dough	None
Bread roll containing foreign body	'Foreign' body consisted of burnt dough	None
Butter Beans containing foreign matter	Contained large number of dead mites and not suitable for human consumption	Legal proceedings instituted. Vendors fined £5
Bottle of milk containing green foreign body	Consisted of a mass of algæ micro organisms and fragments of insects and leaf tissue	Legal proceedings instituted. Bottlers fined £5
Prunes covered with a whitish deposit	Consists essentially of sugar; no evidence of mould growth	None
Bottle of sterilised milk containing foreign matter	Consists of mould growth associated with dried milk residue	Legal proceedings instituted at Bilericay Magistrates Court. Bottlers fined £10
Sponge jam sandwich containing foreign matter	Foreign matter due to mould growth	Owing to undue delay in reporting on behalf of complainant no formal action was taken
Cream horn containing foreign body	Confirmed traces of mould growth	Matter considered by Council. Bakers warned.
Mouldy sliced white loaf	Mould identified as the mould fungus <i>neurospora sitophila</i>	Matter taken up with the bakery concerned
Splinter of wood alleged to have been found in doughnut	Analyst unable to say conclusively that the splinter was baked in the doughnut	No formal action owing to inconclusive evidence
Fried fish alleged unsound and to have caused sickness	Chemical analysis revealed slight trace of ammonia above normal but insufficient to conclude that fish was unsound	Considered by Council. Vendor warned to exercise care
Bread containing foreign matter	Consists of charred dough	None.

# Food Complaints where analysis was not required

<i>Article</i>	<i>Action</i>
Bread containing green cloth	Legal proceedings Billericay Magistrates Court. Fine of £5 imposed
Bottle of milk containing black specks	Legal proceedings. Fine of £5 imposed
Nail in currant loaf	Legal proceedings. Fine of £5 imposed
Wire in tin of imported luncheon meat	Matter taken up with importers
Mouldy sausage rolls	Legal proceedings. Fine of £5 on each of two charges
Spent match in bottle of milk	Legal proceedings. Case dismissed
Small stone in tin of baked beans	Warning letter sent to canners
Dirty milk bottle	Complaint referred to Local Authority in whose area milk was bottled
Bread containing piece of cloth	Legal proceedings. Fine of £5 imposed
Glass in flour	Insufficient evidence — no further action
Dirty milk bottle	Legal proceedings. Fine of £10 imposed
Pork Pie containing mould growth	Legal proceedings. Fine of £7 imposed
Piece of string in loaf of bread	Legal proceedings instituted. Case dismissed
Mouldy bread rolls	Legal proceedings instituted. Fine of £15 imposed
Mouldy macaroni	Legal proceedings instituted. Fine of £6 imposed
Glass allegedly found in bottle of milk	Inconclusive evidence—no further action
Dead wasp in cake	Baker warned and advised re fitting of flyproof screen to the bakery
Mouldy individual fruit pies	Legal proceedings instituted. Fine of £25 imposed
Mouldy loaf of bread	Legal proceedings instituted. Fine of £10 imposed
Mouldy wholemeal loaf	Legal proceedings instituted. Case dismissed
Maggots in bar of chocolate	Matter taken up with wholesalers and manufacturers
Maggots in dried fruit	Vendor warned
Steak and kidney pie in slightly mildewed condition	Vendors warned



<i>Article</i>	<i>Action</i>
Mouldy meat pie	Vendors warned
Mouldy flan case	Vendors warned
Mould in Cornish pasty	Vendors warned
Mouldy bread rolls	Vendors warned
Mouldy pork pie	Vendors warned
Dirty milk bottle	Referred to Local Authority in whose area milk was bottled
Dirty milk bottle	Brought to the attention of the dairy concerned
Mouldy prunes	Vendors warned
Glass in bottle of milk	Dairy firm warned
Cream slices allegedly sold in rancid condition	Vendors warned

### **Milk and Dairies**

The number of licences issued by the Council during the year was as follows:

Pasteuriser's	...	...	...	...	1
Distributors (selling pasteurised milk)					70
Supplementary (Pasteurised)			...		4
Distributors (selling sterilised milk)	...				122
Supplementary (sterilised)	...	...			4
Distributors (selling T.T. milk)	...				47
Supplementary (T.T. milk)	...	...			4

### **Pasteurising Plant**

The milk pasteurising and bottling plant came under new management on January 1st 1959 and the company have proposals for a number of improvements to the premises and additions to the plant.

During the first year new fans were installed in the cold room to improve refrigeration, a new churn washer was installed and work was commenced on the installation of mechanical exhaust fans to extract steam from the churn washing and bottling departments.

Samples of all grades of milk produced by the dairy were taken each week for the statutory methylene blue test and phosphatase test with no failures.

The efficiency of the bottle and churn washing machines was kept under observation by the bacteriological examination of rinsings taken from sample churns and bottles.

Details of samples taken for bacteriological examination are as follows:

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	52
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	16
T.T. farm bottled	...	...	...	...	2
T.T. (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	52
Channel Island T.T. (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	28
Channel Island T.T. (farm bottled)	...	...	...	...	4
Churn Rinsings	...	...	...	...	24
Bottle Rinsings	...	...	...	...	18
					<hr/> 196 <hr/>

### Ice Cream

No heat treated ice cream is made in the District but one retailer continues to manufacture a small quantity from time to time of a cold mix variety. Samples of this and of ice cream sold from vans trading in the area were taken during the season.

At the request of the Public Health Laboratory Service weekly sampling of both "Standard" and "Dairy" ice cream was commenced towards the end of the year from the local depot of a large manufacturer to assist in an investigation into the methylene blue test for ice cream.

The object of this investigation is to determine whether increasing the amount of non fat solids in ice cream to 15% favours the more rapid growth of organisms responsible for the reduction of methylene blue and hence gives a larger proportion of low gradings in such products.

The results of the samples were generally satisfactory, being graded as follows:

Grade I	...	25
Grade II	...	1
Grade III	...	2
Grade IV	...	1

### Registered Food Premises; Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 16

Four new applications for registration of premises used for the manufacture of preserved food were received and approved bringing the total number in the Department's register to 87.

### Essex County Council Act, 1952, Section 103

Three additional persons were registered as hawkers of food during the year making a total of 35.



## Food Premises

Brisk development of the New Town Centre brought a year in which the technical advice of the Inspectors on matters of food hygiene was increasingly given, if not, unfortunately, initially sought. Prospective occupiers of new food shops are in general, one feels, disappointingly reticent in seeking the advice of the department, at the shopfitting stage, in the application of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Every effort is therefore made by the Inspectors to ascertain from developers' agents the names and addresses of prospective occupiers of food premises at an early stage so that comments may be made on their layout plans. There is no disputing the value of this "stitch in time saves nine" technique.

Visits to established premises continued on a routine basis and inspection of the food stalls at each of the three markets were made each market day. Many stallholders, with the possible exception of those in Basildon Market where name boards are provided by the Development Corporation as landlords, apparently possess a peculiar penchant for anonymity, this trait receiving the active discouragement of Inspectors backed by Article 26 of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

It was found necessary to serve informal notices as under:

Absence of wash hand basin	...	5
Insufficient supply of hot or cold water		5
Redecoration	... ..	8
Insufficient accommodation for clothing	... ..	2
Structural defects in food rooms	...	8
Absence of first aid kit	... ..	3
No "Smoking prohibited" notices exhibited	... ..	2
Dampness to walls	... ..	3
Insufficient supply of nail brushes, soap, etc.	... ..	2
Ovens in need of cleansing	... ..	2
Inadequate lighting	... ..	2
Inadequate ventilation	... ..	2
		<hr/> 44 <hr/>

## Unsound Food

Food unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered to the Health Inspectors, excluding meat condemned at slaughterhouses, was as follows:

					<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Ozs.</i>
Meat	...	...	...	...		10	1	20	12
Fish	...	...	...	...		1	2	5	8
Tinned and Frozen Meat	...			...		9	2	22	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tinned and Frozen Fish	...			...		2	2	23	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Flour	...	...	...	...	3	10	—	—	—
Jam	...	...	...	...			3	23	15

				<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Ozs.</i>
Vegetables	...	...	...	10	2	8	15 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Fruit	...	...	...	6	3	—	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Milk	...	...	...		2	4	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	+58 $\frac{1}{4}$ Pints
Cream	...	...	...			7	3	
Butter	...	...	...			3	—	
Cheese	...	...	...			7	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Table Jelly	...	...	...			1	3	
Puddings	...	...	...			20	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Meat Paste	...	...	...				7 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Soup	...	...	...		1	5	1	
Spaghetti	...	...	...			3	10	
Seasoning	...	...	...				5 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Nuts	...	...	...			1	—	
Coffee	...	...	...			1	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Baby Food	...	...	...			15	13	
Pies	...	...	...	1	1	—	14	
Ice Cream	...	...	...			5	6	
Sausages	...	...	...			21	—	
Bacon	...	...	...			4	8	
Pastry	...	...	...		1	—	14	
Mousse	...	...	...		1	19	10	
Chocolate Spread	...	...	...				6	
Olive Oil	...	...	...				13	
Syrup	...	...	...			2	—	
Pickle	...	...	...			2	14	
Breakfast Cereal	...	...	...	1	2	4	9	
Lard	...	...	...	1	1	3	—	
Salad Cream	...	...	...				4 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Dried Fruit	...	...	...			1	—	
Preserves	...	...	...			2	—	
				5	19	—	23	3

### MEAT INSPECTION

The number of animals slaughtered showed an increase of almost 50% over the previous year. Although the total weight of meat condemned, just over 4 tons, was 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  tons less than in 1958, the percentage of animals affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci showed overall increase.

In the case of tuberculosis, while the percentage of pigs found to have been suffering from the disease remained comparable with that returned last year the percentage of cows so affected, previously 14.5%, this year revealed a significant decrease of almost 12%.

In general the fullest co-operation has been received from the occupiers of the four slaughterhouses in current use and a 100% meat inspection service has again been achieved.

TABLE I  
CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED  
IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	<i>Cattle Excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known)	107	443	115	3,200	13,052	—
Number inspected	107	443	115	3,200	13,052	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	3	6	6	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	26	120	—	216	386	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	25.2%	27.5%	2.6%	6.9%	3.0%	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	11	—	—	290	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.9%	2.7%	—	—	2.2%	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	3	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	3	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE II.

REASON FOR CONDEMNATION AND WEIGHTS OR PARTS  
CONDEMNED OTHER THAN THAT SHEWN IN TABLE I.

				Pounds
Pleurisy	...	...	...	32
Adhesions	...	...	...	170½
Abscesses	...	...	...	428
Pericarditis	...	...	...	7
Cirrhosis	...	...	...	213
Necrosis	...	...	...	903
Pneumonia	...	...	...	242
Fatty Change	...	...	...	84
Erysipelas	...	...	...	20
Disomatosia	...	...	...	1233
Echinococcus	...	...	...	8
Telangiectasis	...	...	...	449
Emphysema	...	...	...	22
Arthritis	...	...	...	49
Bruising	...	...	...	757
Inflammation	...	...	...	16
Moribund	...	...	...	170
Actinomycosis	...	...	...	32
Pathological Emaciation	...	...	...	355
Parasitis	...	...	...	2
Pyæmia	...	...	...	460
Sarcoma	...	...	...	25
Peritonitis	...	...	...	22
Tumours	...	...	...	8
Immaturity	...	...	...	25
				<hr/> 5732½

= 2 tons 11 cwts. 20½ lbs.

TABLE III.

WEIGHT OF MEAT CONDEMNED

			<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
For Tuberculosis	...		1	10	2	26
For Cysticerci	...	...			2	16
Other Causes	...	...	2	11	—	20½
			<hr/> 4	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 6½

The following slaughterhouses were licensed during 1959:—

Wm. Buckenham,	Victoria Crescent, Laindon.
Mrs. I. M. Clarke,	92 High Street, Billericay.
P. W. Agate & Son Ltd.,	rear of English's Butcher's shop, High Street, Wickford.
*S. Franklin, Ltd.,	10 The Broadway, Wickford.
*J. M. Lagden,	11 High Road, Laindon.
John Lagden Pigg (transferred to P. E. Barnes 21.10.59)	Southfields Manor Farm, Little Burstead.

\*licensed but unused

### Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933-54

Twenty-nine Slaughtermen's licences were issued in the year.

### Knackers Yards

There is one currently licensed knackers yard, viz.:—

Fryerns Farm, London Road, Wickford.

The following were slaughtered during the year under the supervision of the District Health Inspector:

Calf	...	1
Cows	...	18
Horses	...	4



## SECTION F

## INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1959

Quarter	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Poliomyelitis Para.		Measles		Pneumonia		Dysentery		Erysipelas		Puerperal Pyrexia		Food Poisoning		Paratyphoid Fever		Acute Encephalitis Infective	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	F	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
March ..	39	32	1	3	1	1	—	—	4	5	—	—	—	—	25	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
June ..	19	22	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	3	1	—	—	—	64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
September ..	13	23	3	3	5	1	1	1	—	1	3	1	—	—	7	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
December ..	38	26	10	4	—	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	—	1	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	109	103	17	13	6	4	987	926	8	10	7	4	—	1	102	2	2	—	1	1	—	—
Cases admitted to Hospital	—	—	—	—	6	4	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	99	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

## CAUSES OF DEATH, 1959.

<i>Causes</i>					<i>Male Female Total</i>		
All causes	...	...	...	...	368	298	666
1. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
2. Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
8. Measles	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
10. Malignant neoplasm of stomach	...	...	...	...	5	10	15
11. Malignant neoplasm of lung and bronchus	...	...	...	...	36	2	38
12. Malignant neoplasm of breast	...	...	...	...	—	11	11
13. Malignant neoplasm of uterus	...	...	...	...	—	4	4
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	32	35	67
15. Leukaemia and aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	34	45	79
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	90	52	142
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	3	4	7
20. Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	26	28	54
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	18	18	36
22. Influenza	...	...	...	...	3	3	6
23. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	17	23	40
24. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	23	7	30
25. Other disease of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	5	—	5
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	7	8	15
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	33	28	61
33. Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
34. All other accidents	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
35. Suicide	...	...	...	...	8	3	11
36. Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

## DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1959

Age Group				Male	Female	Total
Under 1	...	...	...	31	17	48
1—2	...	...	...	5	2	7
3—5	...	...	...	2	3	5
6—15	...	...	...	1	2	3
16—24	...	...	...	6	3	9
25—34	...	...	...	13	—	13
35—44	...	...	...	13	2	15
45—54	...	...	...	20	13	33
55—64	...	...	...	56	44	100
65—74	...	...	...	114	76	190
75—84	...	...	...	80	93	173
85 and over	...	...	...	27	43	70
Total				368	298	666

## TUBERCULOSIS

## Notification of New Cases

Age Group				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
				M	F	M	F	
Under 1	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
1—2	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
3—4	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	...	...	...	1	1	1	—	3
15—24	...	...	...	2	9	—	1	12
25—34	...	...	...	5	1	—	3	9
35—44	...	...	...	6	3	1	—	10
45—54	...	...	...	5	—	—	1	6
55—64	...	...	...	2	—	1	—	3
65 and over	...	...	...	1	—	1	—	2
Age Unknown	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
				23	14	4	5	
Total				37				46
				9				

## Other additional cases of Tuberculosis

Reason for addition to Register		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
		M	F	M	F	
Change of residence		43	44	—	2	89











